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United States Senate

SELECT COMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20510

CONGRESSIONAL AFFAIRS

April 24, 1986

86-1348

Dave:

I believe the attached letter from Senator Harkin is self-explanatory. As soon as you have identified a briefer and have the material assembled, please let me know, and I will coordinate it with Senator Harkin and with you. I will also arrange for the use of SH-219 for the briefing. Please call me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Jim Currie

TOM HARKIN
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COMMITTEES:
AGRICULTURE
APPROPRIATIONS
SMALL BUSINESS**United States Senate**

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

April 23, 1986

The Honorable Patrick J. Leahy, Vice-Chairman
Select Committee on Intelligence
United States Senate
SH-211

Dear Senator Leahy:

I am writing to request a formal briefing by the Select Committee on Intelligence on the intelligence community's monitoring of the end use of items procured by the United Nicaraguan Opposition (UNO) with funds distributed by the Nicaraguan Humanitarian Assistance Organization (NHAO).

According to the enclosed letter from William Ball to Congressman Dante Fascell, documents on the use of humanitarian aid in Central America have been made available to the House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence. I would specifically request that material on these documents be made part of the briefing.

Congress, in the International Security and Development Cooperation Act of 1985 (P.L. 99-83), instructed the President to establish procedures to ensure that the humanitarian assistance provided to UNO is used only for its intended purpose and is not diverted for acquisition of lethal equipment and supplies. I would hope that a briefing by the Intelligence Committee could help resolve my outstanding concerns as to whether the intent of Congress is being fulfilled in the administration of the humanitarian aid program.

I appreciate the Committee's interest in this matter and look forward to your response.

Sincerely,



Tom Harkin

cc. Senator Dave Durenberger
encl.

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THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

RECEIVED

April 9, 1986

APR 09 1986

Committee on Foreign Affairs

Dear Chairman:

Thank you for your letter of March 12 enclosing a copy of House Resolution 395 and requesting my views on the proposed resolution.

The humanitarian assistance program authorized by the Congress for the Nicaraguan democratic resistance must be implemented in a manner that takes into account the political situation in the region where this assistance is required. The Executive Branch cannot carry out the will of the Congress, as expressed in the legislation authorizing this aid, unless it protects information concerning procurement and delivery outside the United States. With the exception of intelligence reports, discussed separately below, the documents requested by H. Res. 395 were made available to the General Accounting Office on a classified basis during its audit of the Nicaraguan Humanitarian Assistance Office (NHAO), and remain available for examination on that basis by members or authorized agents of the Congress.

Because of the bulk of the documents falling within the scope of the resolution, we would prefer that any further examination of them by members or authorized agents of the Congress be done at the Nicaraguan Humanitarian Assistance Office. However, should you believe it necessary, we would be ready to make copies available for temporary retention by the Committee in an appropriate secure facility.

With respect to intelligence reports falling within the scope of this resolution, these documents have been made available to the House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence.

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In our view, the Administration has been -- given the unique constraints of this program -- fully cooperative with the Congress in the exercise of its legitimate oversight responsibilities. We intend to continue that cooperation. Since the documents requested by H. Res. 395 are available to the Congress, we see no need for the passage of this resolution.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "W. L. Ball, III". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "William" and last name "Ball" being more legible than the middle initial "L. III".

William L. Ball, III
Assistant to the President

The Honorable Dante B. Fascell
Chairman, Committee on Foreign Affairs
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515